The following measures have been taken by the Government to check deforestation: —

1. National Wastelands Development Board set up in 1985 with the object of bringing 5 million hectares of land every year under fuelwood and fodder plantation.

2. Projects for soil, water and tree conservation in the Himalayas (Operation Soilwatch) and other afforestation programmes in operation.

(3) Guidelines issued to the State Governments:

(i) to avoid clearfelling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) to consider the banning of fellings in the above 1000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) to set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

4. Development of infrastructure and enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forests.

5. Enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to check diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes.

6. Development of alternative sources of energy to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

7. Substitution of wood by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers and building construction.

8. Liberalised import policy for forest products.

9. Fiscal incentives to industry which lead to wood substitution.

10. Use ofpreservative treat ment stressedto prolong timber life leading toreduction in de mand.

11. Control of shifting cultivation.

Water Logging due to Floods

826. PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the progress towards better Command Area Management in rain-fed regions of the country after the recent flood havoc; and

(b) whether water logging problem has been eliminated and field channels completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme aims at integrated development in the commands of selected major and medium irrigation projects and presently covers irrigated agriculture in 132 projects all over the country.

(b) Efforts are being made to alleviate the problem of water logging which has not been eliminated so far. Field channels have so far been constructed in more than 50 per cent of the area covered under the programme.

Modernisation of Garments Industry

827. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the need for modernising the garments industry since there is a